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**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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## **News Release**

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### **Congress Clears Funds for New Shaw Dining Hall**

**WASHINGTON — Congress today gave final approval to legislation appropriating \$5.2 million to fund a new 21,291 square-foot dining hall at Shaw Air Force Base. U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), who sought the funding, said the new facility would be “a boost for morale” and “a plus for Shaw.”**

“Today is a good day for Shaw Air Force Base,” said Spratt. “Congress has put its final approval on a new dining hall, just a few weeks after two subcommittees granted my request and added the funds to the budget.”



**Drawing of new Shaw dining hall, east view**

The funds come as part of a major bill funding military construction projects, approved May 2 by the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities of the House Armed Services Committee. The House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Military Construction approved Spratt’s request the same day. Although the Air Force has recognized the need for a new dining hall, it has not included funds for the facility in its annual budget request. The \$5.2 million item was added to the budget by Congress at Spratt’s request.

Spratt then prevailed upon the full committees and the House to pass the legislation, and bird-dogged the bill as it made its way through the Senate, and a conference committee, working in tandem with Senators Thurmond and Hollings to make sure the dining hall funds stayed intact. The President has indicated he will sign the legislation.

The dining center, when completed, will seat 250 and include a postal service center for sorting mail before delivery to cluster boxes in the dormitory area.

“Shaw has wanted to replace the ‘Carolina Pines’ dining hall for years, but year after year, the funding request from the Air Force was held back; it never made the cut,” Spratt said. “I have visited the dining hall several times, and Shaw does a good job of making it presentable, but there is too little food preparation and storage space. There are leaking pipes and overloaded utilities. The building is 42 years old, outdated, and rated the second worst in Air Combat Command. Shaw has waited long enough. That’s why I took the initiative this year and got \$5.2 million added to the budget.”

Spratt concluded: “I hope that this dining center will be another improvement to quality of life at Shaw, and a boost for the morale of the men and women who serve us so well there. It should also be one more plus for Shaw if there is another base closing round.”

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